

parties a reasonable time to respond to such order. After the time for response has expired, the administrative law judge shall take such action as is appropriate to rule on the dismissal, which may include an order dismissing the claim, defense or party.

(d) No claim shall be dismissed in a case with respect to which payments prior to final adjudication have been made to the claimant in accordance with § 725.522, except upon the motion or written agreement of the Director.

**§ 725.466 Order of dismissal.**

(a) An order dismissing a claim shall be served on the parties in accordance with § 725.477. The dismissal of a claim shall have the same effect as a decision and order disposing of the claim on its merits, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section. Such order shall advise the parties of their right to request review by the Benefits Review Board.

(b) Where the Chief Administrative Law Judge or the presiding administrative law judge issues a decision and order dismissing the claim after a show cause proceeding, the deputy commissioner shall terminate any payments being made to the claimant under § 725.522, and the order of dismissal shall, if appropriate, order the claimant to reimburse the Fund for all benefits paid to the claimant.

**§ 725.475 Termination of hearings.**

Hearings are officially terminated when all the evidence has been received, witnesses heard, pleadings and briefs submitted to the administrative law judge, and the transcript of the proceedings has been printed and delivered to the administrative law judge.

**§ 725.476 Issuance of decision and order.**

Within 20 days after the official termination of the hearing (see § 725.475), the administrative law judge shall issue a decision and order with respect to the claim making an award to the claimant, rejecting the claim, or taking such other action as is appropriate.

**§ 725.477 Form and contents of decision and order.**

(a) Orders adjudicating claims for benefits shall be designated by the term "decision and order" or "supplemental decision and order" as appropriate, followed by a descriptive phrase designating the particular type of order, such as "award of benefits," "rejection of claim," "suspension of benefits," "modification of award."

(b) A decision and order shall contain a statement of the basis of the order, the names of the parties, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and an award, rejection or other appropriate paragraph containing the action of the administrative law judge, his or her signature and the date of issuance. A decision and order shall be based upon the record made before the administrative law judge.

**§ 725.478 Filing and service of decision and order.**

On the date of issuance of a decision and order under § 725.477, the administrative law judge shall serve the decision and order on all parties to the claim by certified mail. On the same date, the original record of the claim shall be returned to the DCMWC in Washington, DC, and the decision and order shall be considered to be filed in the office of the deputy commissioner. Immediately upon receipt of a decision and order awarding benefits, the deputy commissioner shall compute the amount of benefits due, including any interest or penalties, and the amount of reimbursement owed the Fund, if any, and so notify the parties. Any computation made by the deputy commissioner under this paragraph shall strictly observe the terms of the award made by the administrative law judge.

**§ 725.479 Finality of decisions and orders.**

(a) A decision and order shall become effective when filed in the office of the deputy commissioner (see § 725.478), and unless proceedings for suspension or setting aside of such order are instituted within 30 days of such filing, the order shall become final at the expiration of the 30th day after such filing (see § 725.481).